

James 2 - HOW TO PLEASE GOD

Heb. 11:6 - "Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him."

The key to pleasing God is summed up in the word "_____". But how do we know if we have this kind of faith? II Cor. 13:5 - "examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves."

The test for true faith is found in James 2:14-26.

We may be able to understand faith more easily if we see what it is NOT.

I. REAL FAITH IS NOT JUST SOMETHING YOU _____ - V. 14 – “What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?”

II. REAL FAITH IS NOT JUST SOMETHING YOU _____ - V. 15,16 – “If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?”

I John 3:17 – “if anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need, but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?”

III. REAL FAITH IS NOT JUST SOMETHING YOU _____ - v. 18 – “But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.” Real faith is _____.

IV. REAL FAITH IS NOT JUST SOMETHING YOU _____ - v. 19 – “You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!”

V. REAL FAITH IS SOMETHING YOU _____ - v. 20 – “But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?” Real faith is _____ - not passive

V. 21-26 – “Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? ²² Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? ²³ And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” And he was called the friend of God. ²⁴ You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only. ²⁵ Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way? ²⁶ For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”

Christ taught this:

Luke 6:46 - why do you call me Lord, Lord, and do not do what I say?

John 14:15 - If you love me, you will obey what I command.

Actions speak louder than words. I'm not saying you have to work hard to become a Christian - it's a free gift. But after receiving this gift, you demonstrate your faith by your actions. Not to _____ it, but because you _____ it!

The basis of my salvation - God's grace. The proof of my salvation - good works - my ministry.
If your faith doesn't work, it's not real faith.